



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF  
**REALTORS®** INC.

**Statement on**

**H.B. 6015: An Act Prohibiting the Charging of Fees for the Dispatch of Emergency Services in Response to 9-1-1 Calls**

**SUPPORT**

Submitted to the Public Safety Committee  
February 7, 2013

By **Michael Casey**

Good morning. My name is Michael Casey and I am speaking today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of REALTORS® in support of Proposed House Bill 6015: An Act Prohibiting the Charging of Fees for The Dispatch of Emergency Services in Response to 9-1-1 Calls. You should know that we also support a similar bill HB 5294, introduced by Representative Rob Sampson.

We are troubled that so-called "Hot Spot" ordinances, like the one approved by the City of New Britain, place disproportionate burdens on owners of rental housing for supposedly "excessive calls" to police, fire or other town agencies. These burdens include fines, forced registration and inspection fees, and an inability to collect rent on "unregistered" units.

True, there are "carve-outs" in the New Britain law so that medical emergencies, crimes in progress and various other public safety situations are not covered. Still, the ordinance is unclear who the City may penalize - - the property owner, his tenants, or a guest - - as the "responsible person."

Also, the very complexity and poor draftsmanship of the New Britain ordinance has sent dangerous "mixed messages" to the public at large. What's treated as an "emergency" and what is penalized as a "nuisance" is confusing.

The police chief has attempted to dispel that confusion with open letters to the citizenry. The Mayor is now spending money a PR firm to educate the public in the hopes they won't be deterred about reporting illegal activity.

There are numerous other laws governing public nuisances and public safety. Better enforcement may be necessary. Municipalities should be prohibited from enacting the confusing type of 9-1-1 ordinance passed in New Britain.

Thank you. I'm happy to take any questions.



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